

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would request reconsideration of the pending claims in light of the preceding amendments. Applicant has amended the claims to indicate that the product is formed from fiber reinforced nylon. Claims 2, 3, and 6 specify nylon 6.

Accompanying this amendment is a Declaration of the inventor with an engineering report testing the strength of the product, along with the weight. As the data indicates, the nylon product exhibits surprising strength particularly in consideration of its significantly reduced mass. Keep in mind that the claimed product is a hollow ratchet set that is basically adapted to hold a set of sockets. Applicant originally made this out of metal, which would be expected to have the requisite strength. However, the product formed from plastic, being hollow, would not be expected to have the requisite strength to function as a ratchet. The data attached hereto clearly establishes that this fiber reinforced nylon ratchet has adequate strength.

This is very important in the marketing of this product. The main problem with the metal ratchet was that it was too heavy. But, because the wrench was hollow, making this out of a light weight material is simply not an obvious choice. It may be obvious to try, but it certainly is not obvious that it would be successful. Applicant's data, however, indicates that it is not only a successful invention, but also surprisingly successful. The end product, with a hollow handle and a solid neck portion, is extremely strong, and suitable for its intended use of being a ratchet wrench.

Also, as shown by the attached Declaration, it is commercially successful. In other words, applicant has convinced buyers that a plastic ratchet wrench is strong enough for its intended use, and that the weight is an advantage. This is all supported by the attached Declaration. The present invention is not merely a plastic ratchet wrench. It is a hollow handled wrench that weighs significantly less than its metal counterpart, yet is strong enough to meet end use requirements.

Applicant would maintain that these unexpected advantages support the patentability of the pending claims, and, accordingly, applicant would request allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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